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OO RUEHIK RUEHPOD RUEHYG
DE RUEHTI #0220 0811626
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 211626Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6854
INFO RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0926
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUFNPKB/COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUDKSR/EUCOM PLANS AND ANALYSES STUTTGART GE PRIORITY

UNCLAS TIRANA 000220

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR EUR/SCE and PM/WRA
DEPT OF JUSTICE FOR OPDAT, ICITAP
USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA, AID/W
GENEVA PLEASE PASS TO USAID AND RMA
BUDAPEST PLEASE PASS TO USAID/RFMC
SOFIA PLEASE PASS TO LEGATT/PAULINE ROBERTS

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: [MASS](#) [EAID](#) [NATO](#) [SENV](#) [AL](#)
SUBJECT: ALBANIA ASKS FOR VICTIM IDENTIFICATION ASSISTANCE -- SECOND REQUEST

REF: A) TIRANA 200, B) TIRANA 204

¶1. (U) In the aftermath of the tragic Gervec munitions explosion (ref A), the MOI has now seconded PG Ina Rama's request (ref B) for USG assistance to identify victims' remains through DNA analysis. Interior Minister Nishani sent the following letter to Ambassador Withers on March 21.

¶2. (SBU) Begin text:

Ref. No 2032

Tirana, 18 March, 2008

To: H.E. Mr. John L. Withers II
Ambassador of the United States to Albania
Tirana
Subject: Request for the U.S. assistance on the tragedy in Gerdec

Honorable Mr. Ambassador,

I wish, at first, to express my kindly greetings and to convey my deep thanks and gratitude for most sincere and heartfelt condolences and support You have shown to the people of Albania, especially to the families of victims and survivors affected by Saturday's tragedy, 15th March 2008, in Gerdec. This expresses another gesture for the consolidation of the United States of America friendship and patronage to our people.

Considering the very serious existing situation we are encountering insofar, after the blasts in the village of Gerdec, where there are some human bodies carbonized please make possible to provide assistance with experts in order to identify them through DNA.

Distinguished Mr. Ambassador,

Let me avail myself of this opportunity to express to You the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Bujar Nishani
Minister

signature

End Text.

WITHERS